

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS)**

Republic of Serbia

The Serbia Railway Sector Modernization Project (SRSM)

Project ID No. P170868

Assignment Title: Individual Consultant (full time) – Environmental Specialist

Reference No.: SER-SRSM-IC-CS-23-49

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) launched the Multiphase Programmatic Approach (MPA) to support the Government of Serbia (GoS) in continuation of institutional, physical and operational modernization of the railway sector in an integrated manner through providing financial support to Serbia Railway Sector Modernization Project as part of the Multiphase Programmatic Approach to be implemented in three overlapping phases over the ten-year period.

For the purpose of financing Serbia Railway Sector Modernization Project, Phase 1 of the MPA, IBRD and the Agence Francaise de Développement (AFD), jointly, granted to the Republic of Serbia EUR 102 million loan to support enhancing the efficiency and safety of existing railway assets and improving governance and institutional capacity of the railway sector.

The scope of work of the Environmental Specialist shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- Assist in the development process of Environmental Safeguards guidelines in consultation with the World Bank and PIU team to be used by line ministries in the plan and implementation process of the Projects;
- Prepare Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) and ensure that such plans are approved by relevant authorities and the WB before implementation, review them on a regular basis and keep them up to date at all times;
- Lead on developing and delivering a series of spot checks to ensure safeguards policies are properly implemented at the grassroots level in line with the WB safeguards requirements;
- Provide substantive advice on safeguard issues to sectors in order to promote enhanced investment in building a climate-resilient green economy;
- Carry out consultations with Stakeholders and provide a channel for feedback on relevant aspects of project activities, especially on those impacted and on vulnerable groups;
- Oversee the functioning of the grievance mechanism of the program and collate information on the management of grievances and their timely resolution;
- Based on the approved Project Implementation Plans, assist in finalising the tender documents following the WBs Procurement Policies and Rules. Tender documents must clearly state all the requirements bidders must meet, including environmental, health, safety and social (EHSS) standards and all criteria that will be applied to evaluate offers.
- Oversee installations, maintenance and disposal of substances, plant and equipment, etc. to ensure they are done in conformity with applicable regulations and industry best practices;
- Oversee contractors' compliance with Project environmental policies, framework and instruments;
- Record and investigate incidents to determine the cause and to propose improvements to processes in the future;
- Prepare reports on incidents and compile statistical information to the Head of PIU, Project Coordinator and the Bank;
- Check with contracts, memoranda of understanding and/or other necessary agreements required for the disbursement of funds for approved actions against the set standards for environmental safeguards;

- Ensure Monitoring of performance through the Key Performance indicators (KPI) as defined in the ESMFs;
- Support the PIU to prepare, and follow up on, requirements from the Environmental and Social Incident Response Tool (ESIRT);
- Keep the Grievance log and produce Semi-annual Grievance Report
- Review of all Social and Environmental instruments (ESMP, ESMP Checklist, and specific environmental management instruments) which are to be prepared by the Beneficiaries. If such capacity does not exist within the Beneficiary Teams, this will become the responsibility of the Consultant. Once appointed, the Consultant shall conduct a rapid capacity assessment under the leadership of the Head of PIU to identify whether such capacity exists
- And any other above unspecified task which has been assigned by the ESMF to be the responsibility of the Environmental and Social specialist e.g. as defined in the ESMF for the WB TTFP, respectively SRSM Project;
- Any other task assigned by the Head of PIU

The Environmental Specialist should possess:

- Educational qualifications: advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in environmental sciences, engineering or other relevant science.
- Years of experience: A minimum of 8 years of extensive working experience, out of which 5 years in Environment assessment and management, specific policy development and implementation.
- Previous experience with World Bank/other IFIs funded projects as an environmental reviewer and an understanding of its requirements would be an advantage;
- Experience in at least 2 internationally funded projects in the fields of infrastructure environmental safeguards and protection;
- Track record of successfully working with governments on environment safeguarding, climate change and sustainable development agenda is preferable;
- Ability to work as a part of a team, sharing information and coordinating efforts within the team;
- Excellent knowledge of written and spoken Serbian and English;
- Knowledge of the program operation areas is advantageous

The Consultant shall provide full-time services for the life of the Project, i.e. until December 31, 2026, with a probationary period of six (6) months. The Consultant should be available to commence no later than one month after the contract signature. If contracted, the Consultant will have to declare that he/she will not have other full or part-time assignment during his/her engagement under this contract.

The detailed Terms of Reference for the above referenced consulting services is posted on the website of the Ministry of Construction, Transportation and Infrastructure (MCTI) <https://mgsi.gov.rs/cir/dokumenti/serbia-railway-sector-modernization-project-srsm-individualni-konsultanti-piu-i-pit>

The CFU of the Ministry of Finance now invites eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the above services. Interested consultants must provide Cover Letter and CV representing description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions and availability of appropriate skills (scanned diplomas to be sent with CV).

The evaluation criteria for each assignment:

- Qualifications and General experience (40 Points)
- Specific Experience relevant to the Assignment (60 Points)

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 3.16 and 3.17 of the **World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers – Procurement in Investment Project Financing Goods, World, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services**, July 2016, revised November 2017, August 2018 and November 2020 ("the Regulations") setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the *Open Competitive Selection of Individual Consultants* as set out in the Regulations.

Interested consultants may obtain further information from the CFU at the address below from 09:00 to 15:00 hours.

Expressions of interest **in English language** must be delivered to the e-mail address below by **August 28, 2023, 12:00 Noon**, local time.

When submitting Expressions of interest please indicate assignment and reference number for which you are applying.

Contact:	E-mail:	Address:
To:	zorica.petrovic@mfin.gov.rs Ms. Zorica Petrović Procurement Specialist	Ministry of Finance Central Fiduciary Unit 3-5 Sremska St 11000 Belgrade, Serbia
Cc:	ljliljana.dzuver@mfin.gov.rs larisa.puzovic@mgsi.gov.rs	Tel/Fax: (+381 11) 765 2587

Serbia Railway Sector Modernization Project

Terms of Reference For Environmental Specialist

1. Background

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) launched the Multiphase Programmatic Approach (MPA) to support the Government of Serbia in the continuation of institutional, physical and operational modernisation of the railway sector in an integrated manner by providing financial support to Serbia Railway Sector Modernization Project as part of the Multiphase Programmatic Approach to be implemented in three overlapping phases over the ten-year period.

To finance Serbia Railway Sector Modernization Project, Phase 1 of the MPA, IBRD and the Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD), jointly, granted to the Republic of Serbia EUR 102 million loan to support enhancing the efficiency and safety of existing railway assets and improving governance and institutional capacity of the railway sector.

The Project includes the following components:

- Component 1: Infrastructure Investments and Asset Management: Sub-Component 1.1: Reliable and Safe Railway Infrastructure (track rehabilitation, level crossings, railway station "Prokop", Bogojevo station bypass, measurement stations), Sub-Component 1.2: Technical Documentation for the Phase 2, Sub-Component 1.3: Asset Management
- Component 2: Institutional Strengthening and Project Management: Sub-Component 2.1: Sectoral Governance, Sub-Component 2.2: Human capital, Sub-Component 2.3: Project Management and Citizen Engagement
- Component 3: Railway Modernization Enablers: Sub-Component 3.1: Intelligent Railway Systems (ITS) and Safety Management System (SMS), Sub-Component 3.2: Integrated Territorial Development and Sub-Component 3.3: Modal Shift

The Project is managed by the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure (MoCTI) through the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) supplemented by the Project Implementation Teams (PITs) in Railway Directorate (RD) and in railway companies, respectively Serbian Railway Infrastructure (IZS), Serbia Voz (SV) and Serbia Cargo (SC). PITs will act as subordinate implementing agencies and provide technical support for specific Project subcomponents or activities of the MPA that pertain to their area of expertise. Primary responsibility for Project execution lies on PIU which will ensure that the Project development objectives are met.

The Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure (the Client) intends to engage a highly qualified consultant (individual expert) to provide the required services more closely described below. The successful candidate will work closely with the Client and other relevant stakeholders, primarily with the Serbian Railway Infrastructure (IZS), to ensure that the investments in railway infrastructure within the Project are managed efficiently, both technically and in compliance with

the objectives of the Project Appraisal Document (PAD), the Loan Agreement, Credit Facility Agreement and the Project Operations Manual.

The Consultant, always aligned with the Head of the PIU and in collaboration with the other PIU staff, shall interact and liaise with a PIT team within companies, contractors, consultants, World Bank, AFD, and other relevant stakeholders for successful completion of the tasks. He/she will closely monitor the implementation of the activities from an environmental perspective with the aim that all activities are completed within the framework of World Bank Environmental and Social safeguards and national legislation that regulates this field.

2. General information

Individual Consultant Title: Environmental Specialist in the PIU to support railway infrastructure investments in the Republic of Serbia, Serbia Railway Sector Modernization Project. The Consultant shall report to the Head of the PIU, linked to the MoCTI of the Republic of Serbia.

3. Position in organisation

Immediate superior: Head of the Project Implementation Unit

4. Principle responsibilities

Generally, the Consultant is responsible for the environmental screening and categorisation of the proposed subprojects and activities on the SRSM Project, for reviewing and approval of the Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), for evaluation and review of monitoring reports to ensure compliance with the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)/ESMPs, performing on-site visits (if necessary), and advising applicants on the content of ESMPs, as needed.

Main objectives are determined as follows:

- To assist in the preparation of tender documents in accordance with the WB Procurement Policies and Rules (PPRs) and with the WB Environment and Social safeguards, where applicable.
- To ensure full coordination with the Construction Engineers, Site Engineers and other contractor personnel. In general, the Environmental Specialist's role is to ensure that people and the environment are not harmed as a result of the works of the contractors to be selected by ensuring compliance with relevant social and environmental regulations, procedures, guidelines and specifications;
- To provide advice on measures needed to reduce negative environmental impacts;
- To transfer knowledge and skills to all stakeholders by introducing international standards and best practices in project planning, project management and environmental, health, safety and social (EHSS) requirements. The transfer of knowledge and skills will result from collaborative working between the Consultant and the PIU staff.

The scope of work of the Environmental Specialist shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- Assist in the development process of Environmental Safeguards guidelines in consultation with the World Bank and PIU team to be used by line ministries in the plan and implementation process of the Projects;
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- And any other above unspecified task which has been assigned by the ESMF to be the responsibility of the Environmental and Social specialist e.g. as defined in the ESMF for the WB TTFP, respectively SRSM Project;
- Any other task assigned by the Head of PIU.

5. Reporting requirements

The Consultant will provide Monthly Progress Reports within 5 (five) days after the end of the month for which the report is due. The report should contain at least:

- List of meetings held with a brief description of objectives and conclusions;
- The status of progress, problems encountered, corrective actions needed, and the rationale for actions;
- Time spent working on individual components and
- Any further comments relevant to the reporting period.

The Consultant shall prepare ad-hoc reports on any major issues raised during Project implementation at the Head of the PIU, Client or Bank's request.

6. Knowledge, experience, skills and competencies

The Environmental Specialist should possess:

- Educational qualifications: advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in environmental sciences, engineering or other relevant science.
- Years of experience: A minimum of 8 years of extensive working experience, out of which 5 years in Environment assessment and management, specific policy development and implementation.
- Previous experience with World Bank/other IFIs funded projects as an environmental reviewer and an understanding of its requirements would be an advantage;
- Experience in at least 2 internationally funded projects in the fields of infrastructure environmental safeguards and protection;
- Track record of successfully working with governments on environment safeguarding, climate change and sustainable development agenda is preferable;
- Ability to work as a part of a team, sharing information and coordinating efforts within the team;
- Excellent knowledge of written and spoken Serbian and English;
- Knowledge of the program operation areas is advantageous.

7. Length of the assignment

The Consultant shall provide full-time services for the life of the Project, i.e. until December 31, 2026, with a probationary period of six (6) months.

The Consultant should be available to commence no later than one month after the contract signature. The Consultant should be available to provide services for at least 8 hours each day, Monday to Friday, for a minimum period of 40 hours per week. All leave to be allowed to the Consultant is included in the staff months of service. The Consultant will have 30 days of paid vacation leave per year. The leave for national holidays is to be considered paid.

8. Facilities to be provided by the Client

The Client will be responsible for the provision of the following:

- Fully equipped office space, with access to the Internet, local telephone line, printing, photocopying and document binding;
- Access to necessary documents
- Where the Consultant is required to travel, to site or elsewhere in accordance with the Client's instruction, transportation costs will be borne by the Client.

9. Confidentiality

The Consultant undertakes to maintain confidentiality on all information that is not in the public domain and shall not be involved in another assignment that represents a conflict of interest to the prevailing assignment.

10. Selection of Consultant

The Consultant will be selected by applying Open competitive method. The candidates will be evaluated by applying the following evaluation criteria:

- Qualifications and General experience (40 Points)
- Specific Experience relevant to the Assignment (60 Points)

The Consultant is eligible, and his selection does not create any conflict of interest as provided in the Banks Procurement Regulations.